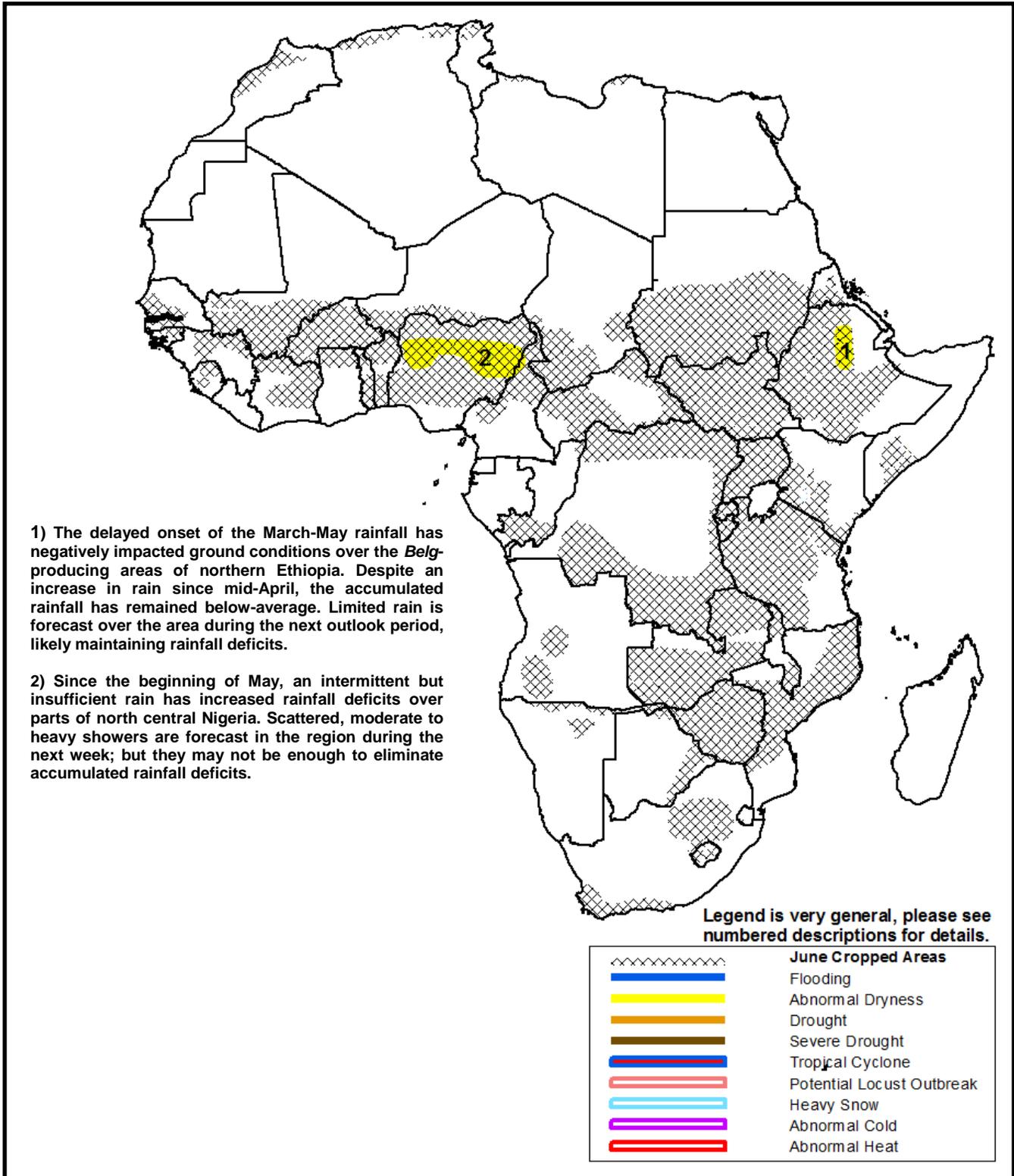


Climate Prediction Center's Africa Hazards Outlook For USAID / FEWS-NET June 13 – June 19, 2013

- Favorable rains were observed along the Gulf of Guinea, while seasonal rains continued in eastern Africa during the past week.



Good rains observed along the Gulf of Guinea.

During the past week, a favorable rainfall distribution was observed across the Gulf of Guinea region, with widespread, moderate to heavy (> 30 mm) rain throughout Guinea, Sierra Leone, Liberia, southern parts of Cote d'Ivoire, Ghana, Togo, Benin, and Nigeria (**Figure 1**). The heaviest rainfall was received along the southwestern coasts of Cote d'Ivoire, where rainfall amounts in excess of 200 mm was recorded. Light to moderate (20 – 40 mm) rain also fell across the Sahel, including eastern Senegal, southern Mali, Burkina Faso, and western Niger as the rain-bearing system continued its northward progression. While this past week's rainfall totals helped to maintain moisture surpluses over the western portions of West Africa, they were not sufficient to eliminate thirty-day rainfall deficits over parts of western Mali and central Nigeria. However, there is an ample time for recovery as it is still early in the season. Peak rainfall is expected over the next few months.

During late early June, favorable vegetation conditions prevail across much of West Africa due to average to above-average rainfall over most parts of the region since the beginning of the season as reflected in an analysis of the Water Requirement Satisfaction Index (WRSI) (**Figure 2**). However, areas including portions of southern Senegal, western Mali, Burkina Faso, and northern Nigeria experienced average to mediocre and late start conditions, which may affect cropping activities in the region. The continuation of seasonal rain should provide adequate moisture and enhance water availability for agricultural and pastoral activities in West Africa.

During the next outlook period, there is an increased chance for above-average rain across the Sahel, with moderate to locally heavy rain forecast over Guinea, eastern Senegal, and southern Mali. Scattered, heavy showers are also expected over Nigeria. In contrast, there is an increased chance for below-average rain along the Gulf of Guinea, with light rain expected across Cote d'Ivoire, Ghana, Togo, and Benin.

Rainfall deficits persist in northern Ethiopia.

Despite an increase in rainfall over the past recent months, the long-lasting impacts of the delayed onset of the March – May seasonal rainfall still persist across the *Belg*-producing areas of northern Ethiopia. Since February, these areas have received only up to 25 percent of their averages (**Figure 3**). This had reduced planting and negatively impacted crops, likely reducing seasonal yields in the region. During the past week, seasonal rain fell across eastern Africa, with light to moderate rain observed over Sudan and South Sudan and moderate to heavy rain concentrated over western Ethiopia. During the next outlook period, seasonal rain is expected to continue across western Ethiopia, while light and moderate rain is forecast over southern Sudan and South Sudan, respectively. Farther south, model rainfall forecasts suggest heavy showers, which may trigger localized flooding in western Kenya.

Note: The hazards outlook map on page 1 is based on current weather/climate information and short and medium range weather forecasts (up to 1 week). It assesses their potential impact on crop and pasture conditions. Shaded polygons are added in areas where anomalous conditions have been observed. The boundaries of these polygons are only approximate at this continental scale. This product does not reflect long range seasonal climate forecasts or indicate current or projected food security conditions.

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